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Are There Wetlands on Your Land?

A **YES** answer to any of the questions below **might** indicate that an area on your property is a wetland:

Yes / No

___ Does the National or Local Wetlands Inventory map show a wetland on the property?

___ Does the county soil survey map show hydric soils within the site?

___ Are there natural drainage channels or swales?

___ Is the ground soggy underfoot in the spring?

___ Are there depressions where water pools for a week or more in the spring?

___ Do you avoid the area with heavy equipment in the spring to keep from getting bogged down?

___ Would you need to ditch the site to dry it out for planting or building? ___
Are seeps or springs present?

___ Dig an 18-inch deep hole and remove a clump of soil. Are there rusty red "mottles" on a gray background?

___ Is there evidence of surface scour from water flowing over the site? Is there a drift line of leaves or debris caught in the stems of shrubs or lodged along an elevation contours?

___ Do you see many clumps of grass-like rushes (round stems) or sedges (angular stems), skunk cabbage, willows, or Oregon ash? (These are just a few of the many plants that grow in wetlands.)

____ If farmed, must you work the soil later than other areas because soils are poorly drained?

____ Did the area fail a septic system test and/or require a special system due to poorly draining soils?

Next Steps:

Give us a call if you think you may have a Wetland!

Oregon and Washington take their wetlands and wetland protection seriously. You should too! Disrupting or otherwise harming a wetland habitat can lead to fines and legal prosecution.

If your development plans include any kind of construction or earth-moving activities (fill or excavation), verification by a professional wetland delineation expert is highly recommended. EMS can evaluate the site, prepare a wetland determination report, perform a professional delineation if necessary and assist with planning your mitigation efforts.